

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a driveshaft assembly, comprising the steps of:
  - forming a ~~tube~~ yoke having a longitudinal axis;
  - determining a location of overbalance of the yoke about the axis;
  - forming a tube having a ~~variable~~ first wall thickness extending along a first circumferential ~~portion~~ lengths of the tube, the tube including a region extending along a second circumferential ~~portion~~ length of the tube and having a second wall thickness greater than the first wall thickness, the region of the tube defining a mass distribution;
  - and
  - fitting the tube on the yoke such that the region is spaced angularly about the axis from the location of overbalance such that the mass distribution of the region of the tube offsets the overbalance of the yoke.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the tube has a circular cross section and the region has a center located substantially at a midpoint along the second ~~its~~ circumferential ~~portion~~ length, the method further comprising the step of fitting the tube on the yoke such that a center of the region is located diametrically opposite the location of overbalance.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the tube has a circular cross section and includes a weld seam extending longitudinally along the tube substantially parallel to the axis, the method further comprising the step of fitting the tube on the yoke such that the location of overbalance is aligned with the weld seam.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of securing the tube to the yoke.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming the tube further comprises:

forming a sheet having a width bounded by lateral edges, the first wall thickness being located in first portions of the width, and the second wall thickness being located in a second portion of the width;

rolling the sheet about a longitudinal axis such that the lateral edges are mutually adjacent; and

securing the lateral edges together by welding.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming a tube further comprises:

forming a sheet having a width bounded by lateral edges, the first wall thickness being located in first portions of the width, and the second wall thickness being located in a second portion of the width centrally located between the lateral edges;

rolling the sheet about a longitudinal axis such that the lateral edges are mutually adjacent; and

securing the lateral edges together by welding.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming a tube further comprises:

forming a sheet having a width bounded by lateral edges, the first wall thickness being located in first portions of the width, and the second wall thickness being located in a second portion of the width aligned with a geometric center of the second portion between the lateral edges;

rolling the sheet about a longitudinal axis such that the lateral edges are mutually adjacent; and

securing the lateral edges together by welding.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a tube for use in a vehicle driveshaft assembly including the steps of:

forming a sheet having a width bounded by lateral edges, a first thickness extending across first portions of the width, and a region having second thickness greater than the first wall thickness extending across a second portion of the width;

rolling the sheet about a longitudinal axis such that the lateral edges are mutually adjacent; and

securing the lateral edges together by welding, wherein a mass distribution defined by the region offsets a mass distribution defined by the welded lateral edges.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of forming a sheet further comprises the step of locating the region centrally between the lateral edges

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of securing the lateral edges together further comprises welding the lateral edges together along a longitudinal seam.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of forming a sheet further comprises the step of aligning the region diametrically opposite the weld seam.

12. (New) A method of manufacturing a tube comprising the steps of:  
providing a sheet of material having first and second edges, the sheet of material having first wall thickness portions that extend from the first and second longitudinally extending edges and a second wall thickness portion that extends between the first wall thickness portions;

rolling the sheet of material such that the first and second edges are located adjacent to one another; and

securing the first and second edges together to form a tube having a first mass distribution defined by the second wall thickness portion that offsets a second mass distribution defined by the first wall thickness portions.